

**Statement by Bob Van Deventer  
President & CEO, Saginaw Chamber of Commerce  
Senate Bill 637**

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the House Energy Policy:

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 637 on behalf of the Board of Directors and nearly 1000 members of the Saginaw Chamber of Commerce.

I am writing to ask that you support SB 637, which streamlines the process associated with installing small cell facilities in the public right-of-way here in Michigan.

This legislation is important in the effort to encourage continued economic growth and prosperity in the Saginaw region. The fact is, access to fast, reliable communications networks is a necessity in today's business world. Seemingly every day, information moves more rapidly, and decisions are made more swiftly. And to stay competitive in that environment, businesses must be able to connect to their employees, vendors, and customers at a moment's notice.

Deploying small cell technology throughout the Saginaw region would ensure our residents and businesses are able to dependably enjoy that level of connectivity, which is not a certainty today given the stress and strain plaguing our existing wireless infrastructure.

The use of smartphones and tablets has exploded in recent years, and that use has taken a toll on our networks. If we hope to continue to enjoy unfettered and expanded wireless access, efforts must be made to enhance the speed and capacity of our wireless networks.

Small cell facilities can offer that expanded access. These small, wireless facilities can significantly boost speed and coverage in the areas in

which they're installed. And the legislation before you will encourage our providers to rapidly deploy this technology throughout the state.

And this legislation goes well beyond alleviating the present strain on our wireless networks. Small cell is the first step toward the next generation of wireless technology that will, quite literally, drive our economy forward. This technology is playing a critical role in the testing and development of automated vehicle technology, and we're already seeing the benefits of that play out here in Saginaw. Nexteer Automotive, with facilities all over the world including Saginaw, is leading the way in developing the steering systems that will guide the automatic vehicles of the future.

Michigan is at the forefront of developing automated vehicle technology, which has the potential to spur massive growth and investment here in our state. With that in mind, I hope you'll make the responsible choice for our state's businesses and Michigan's prospects for prosperity by supporting the bill before you today.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Bob VanDeventer, President & CEO  
Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce  
515 N. Washington Ave. – Suite 300  
Saginaw, MI 48607  
989-752-7161